

Message Text

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15

ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-03 ISO-00 SR-02 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-04

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-02 EUR-10 AID-05 /050 W

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R 101709Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0646

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 6201

E.O.11652/N/A

TAGS: CI SREF SHUM

SUBJ: UNHCR REP. PRAISES GOC COOPERATION ON REFUGEES

1. DEPARTING UNHCR REP. DANIEL BLANCHARD (U.S. CITIZEN) PAID COURTESY CALL ON CHIEF OF STATE PINOCHET OCT9, AFTER WHICH HE TOLD REPORTERS HE WISHED TO TAKE PUBLIC NOTE OF GOC COOPERATION ON REFUGEE PROBLEMS. " DURING THE PERIOD I HAVE BEEN IN CHILE (SINCE OCTOBER 1973), GOC HAS FULLY HONORED ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE 1951 CONVENTION ON REFUGEES."

2. BLANCHARD STATED THAT SINCE SEPT 1973 COUP UNHCR HAD RESETTLED MORE THAN 4,000 THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS WHO WERE IN AN "IRREGULAR STATUS" IN CHILE OR OTHERWISE WISHED TO LEAVE. UNHCR. IN COOPERATION WITH CHILEAN REFUGEE COMMITTEE, IS NOW WORKING ON "SECOND STEP," HE SAID, WHICH IS REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES. NO MENTION MADE OF ANY UNHCR ROLE IN RESETTLEMENT OF CHILEANS DETAINED ON SECURITY GROUNDS WHO MAY BE RELEASED BY GOC FOLLOWING GEN. PINOCHET'S SPEECH LAST SEPT.11 (WE RECOGNIZE THATUNTIL THESE LEAVE COUNTRY, THEY DO NOT FALL UNDER UNHCR MANDATE.)

3. BLANCHARD ANNOUNCED HIS REPLACEMENT WILL BE GILES SICOTTE, A CANADIAN CITIZEN, WHO HAS PREVIOUS UNHCR EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA.

4. COMMENT. GOC DESERVES HIGH MARKS ON REFUGEES ISSUE FOR ITS EFFECTIVE COOPERATION WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL
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AGENCIES, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN A RELATIVELY RAPID SOLUTION TO WHAT

COULD HAVE BEEN A MAJOR PROBLEM. GOC APPEARS DISPOSED TO
CONTINUE COOPERATION WITH APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES
IN HANDLING FLOW OF DETAINEES CURRENTLY BEING RELEASED.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA06201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740289-0391
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741056/aaaabvmo.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 NOV 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNHCR REP. PRAISES GOC COOPERATION ON REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, CI, (BLANCHARD, DANIEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005